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# 'DO NOT GIVE TO BEGGARS'

Kieran Davey  
kdavey@nqo.com

PEOPLE have been warned not to give away "their hard-earned cash" to beggars in Banbury town centre, and report any aggressive behaviour they witness.

It comes after police reported there had been a "constant" stream of complaints about people asking for money in the town.

They have also claimed there has been an increase in people coming to Banbury for the day just to beg – intimidating shoppers in the process.

Banbury PC John Shatford, also a neighbourhood specialist officer, said: "There are some who use begging as a way to make money, and sometimes they are threatening and intimidating to shoppers.

"We refuse to tolerate this, so we will use all the powers available to us to stop them from harassing visitors to the town centre.

"It seems that people are coming over to beg for the day from Brackley, before going back to their flats in Northamptonshire. Please consider this before you give away your hard-earned cash."

He added that in the last few weeks, five short-term banning orders had been issued to beggars. One man also remains on bail to keep away from the town centre.

Many of the letters sent in by shoppers have been written in anonymously, meaning senders cannot be contacted for an official statement.

Councillor Tony Iltott, Cherwell District Council's lead member for public protection, said although he had not seen any aggressive begging, people should be "more aware" of those asking for money.

He added: "I am aware that beggars are in the area and what the police are doing to help. I also know that there are



Banbury town centre, where people have been told not to give money to beggars

people who sit in the street who just come down for the day and then return home.

"Some people think they are being generous and helping, but my advice would be not to give them anything.

"If someone is down on their luck people want to help them, but a better idea would be to give the money to a charity for the homeless.

"Many beggars will do so because it is profitable – if they don't get money they are more likely to seek employment."

In Oxford, public space protection orders came into effect last month. Behaviours now prohibited include "aggressively" begging, and cycling in certain

busy shopping streets outside of 6pm to 10am.

People must also not remain in a public toilet without reasonable excuse, keep their dogs under control and hand over alcohol when asked to do so by officers.

Other issues in Banbury town centre put forward by officers include cars obstructing drivers by parking illegally – especially around schools – and shoplifting.

If anyone has witnessed any aggressive behaviour by beggars, they should call 101 or visit Banbury police station.

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# Young minds share their bright ideas at trade fair

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**BUDDING** entrepreneurs from across the county gathered in Banbury to show off their business talents.

Young Enterprise (YE) teams tested their products at the annual Banbury Trade Fair last Saturday.

Among the winners were pupils from Our Lady's Abingdon, who picked up the prize for best trade stand for their company Afterglow. They sold a range of household devices including lamps made from cassette tapes and serving bowls made of old vinyl records.

Managing director James Himpson said: "We wanted to reuse old items that seemingly had no purpose and our market research led to us coming up with uses for old cassette tapes and records."

"It feels good that we are giving new purpose to old items and saving them from landfill."

Other products sold included phone accessories, jewellery, fire-lighters, key rings, cake recipes and photo booth prints.

Teams contained students taking part in the YE Company Programme, aimed at 15-19 year olds, which gives them the chance to set up and run their own company for a year. They are guided by a skilled



Youngsters from Afterglow selling their wares during Banbury Trade Fair

business mentor and elect a board of directors from among their friends.

They then raise share capital, market and finance a product or service that they create.

Other awards were given to "Glaze" from Burford School for best product, while Afterglow also picked up the best customer service prize.

North and West Oxfordshire

Young Enterprise board chairman Adrian Mason said: "All teams who traded deserve immense credit for braving the cold weather and putting on a superb display of what Young Enterprise is all about."

"It's been another successful fair for us in Banbury and we are especially appreciative of the sponsorship we've had from local businesses and the district council, and of course shoppers who have

come to buy products and show their support."

Banbury MP Victoria Prentis said: "I think we must do all we can to empower young people with the confidence, ability and ambition to succeed."

"We have a fantastic variety in the constituency, and young people should always have the opportunity to move into the fields that interest and inspire them."

## Tories planning county merger

CONSERVATIVE associations in Oxfordshire could be merged into one "super association" under new plans. Changes would see permanent staff brought in, with shared offices covering multiple constituencies and the role of voluntary chairmen reduced.

There are seven Tory associations in the county, one for each constituency and an over-arching countywide association.

National party figures have said merging would allow associations to mount stronger campaigns, but grassroots activists warned it could reduce the influence of local people on choosing election candidates.

The plan, which *The Daily Telegraph* reported could be in place within a year, was presented by Lord Feldman, the party chairman, to a ruling board.

It said party sources had stressed the mergers would be subject to a vote of members, but that individual associations could be overruled if most others in a county backed the change.

Robert Eyles, deputy chairman of Oxfordshire Conservative Association, told the *Banbury Cake*: "The chairman's job is to pull the voluntary side of the association together, so I am not sure diluting that role would be a good idea. We will study these proposals in detail as more information becomes available."

## Policing assessment

A WATCHDOG is set to release a report assessing the overall state of Thames Valley Police force.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary will release its findings after its "State of Policing" inspection. It will also assess leadership in the force.

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# Time capsule a glimpse into life from the 1950s



Church secretary Marilyn Nutt and John Donaldson, Cherwell District Council lead member for housing, with the time capsule



From left, church members Eileen Bonner and Connie Moses, Marilyn Nutt, John Donaldson, and Rev Lin Francis

Box of mementos from 1957 unearthed from beneath the ruins of demolished church

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MENTOS of Banbury's history have been unearthed below a demolished church.

When Fairway Methodist Church was knocked down in January to make way for a new housing project, builders discovered a time capsule buried in the ground nearly 60 years ago.

Among treasures in the capsule, originating from 1957, were old versions of national and Banbury-based newspapers, a copy of *Reader's Digest* and letters between church staff.

A poster was also found for a fund-raising appeal for the building of the original church in 1957, then known as Ruscote Methodist Church.

The church's original cross and foundation stone were also salvaged from the rubble.

Reverend Victoria Bravette, from the church, said: "We actually have a few members who were part of the church who are old enough to remember what happened at the time."

"They knew when the capsule was buried but most of us didn't know what was in it until it was uncovered."

Work began last month to build 11 two- and three-bedroom affordable homes on the church site.

A new purpose-built two-storey church is also planned for the site.

But unlike its previous brown colour, the new building will be made of multi-coloured bricks. Its rainbow colours were picked out by members of the congregation.

The time capsule box will now be reburied under the new building, after its contents have been examined by church leaders.

It will be topped up with modern versions of the town's newspapers – including a copy of the *Banbury Cake*.

Rev Bravette added: "We are hop-



Fairway Methodist Church

ing that people will find the box years from now, and will be able to look back at 1957 and 2016.

"Looking at pictures of 1957 you can see that a lot has changed, there were only a few women in the congregation but there are lots more now."

John Donaldson, head of housing for the district council, said the capsule provided "a fascinating glimpse" into what life was like in the 1950s.

He said: "This project is all about building for the future, but in doing so, we are respectful of the past."

"For almost 60 years this church has stood at the heart of this estate and we know it will hold strong memories for thousands who have celebrated and mourned the milestones of life or taken comfort from weekly services."

"We will now honour those memories of the past by adding them to our own time capsule from the present, ready to be unearthed one day in the future."

## Accident blocks M40

**BANBURY:** A car crash blocked the M40 near the town for about two hours last weekend.

The accident, involving one car, happened on the southbound carriageway between Junction 11 for Banbury and Junction 10 for Brackley at about 3pm on Saturday.

One lane was closed while emergency services attended, but by 5pm the road was cleared.

Thames Valley Police said no one was injured in the crash.

## Dogs' microchipping

**OXON:** Free microchipping for dogs will be offered in Banbury tomorrow in advance of it becoming a legal requirement in April.

The RSPCA is holding events at Midcounties Co-op stores around Oxfordshire to help dog owners avoid the £500 fine that will be introduced.

Tomorrow's microchipping is at the Co-op in Queensway, from 10am to 1pm.

Further sessions will be held at the Co-op at The Square, Botley, on Saturday, March 5, and Besselsleigh Road Co-op in Wootton on Saturday, March 12, at the same times.

## Branch raises funds

**BANBURY:** Staff at the Leeds Building Society helped the company to raise more than £95,000 for charity last year.

The Banbury branch raised £306 by holding a raffle for the Alzheimer's Society.

The team also dressed up for Children In Need and sold cakes and sweets on the day.

Banbury branch manager Claire Hill said: "I'm very proud of the support our staff have given to various charities, and all their efforts in ensuring a successful year of fundraising."

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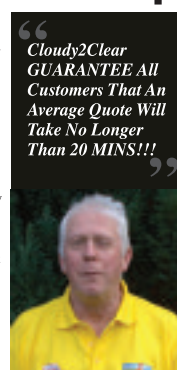
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policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. "Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury

& Abingdon areas and manager James Miller agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give James a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



## Insight to life as health governor

ONE of Oxfordshire's biggest healthcare providers is urging people to become governors.

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust is hosting two governor awareness evenings to let people know what being a governor

entails. Nominations for the board of governors run from this week until March 17, with the elections running until April 28.

The first event is at Jurys Inn hotel in Godstow Road, Oxford, at 6.30pm next Monday, with the

second at Adams Park Stadium, High Wycombe, on March 14.

To find out more call 01865 902068 or email communications.team@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk Visit [oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/about-us/governance](http://oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/about-us/governance)

## 'Police force merger is common sense'

THE Thames Valley Police Federation chairman says the 43 police forces in England and Wales should be merged down to a maximum of five or six.

Graham Smith said "it is clearly common sense" that police services with "1,500 or 2,000 officers cannot be sustainable".

This month marks 10 years since the Labour government tried in vain to introduce force mergers to the country.

But Mr Smith, whose organisation represents officers below the rank of inspector, said: "Collaboration is not the answer. It is a sticking plaster on an open wound that will never heal. So what we need to do is have this real grown-up conversation with government, with the public."

"I don't believe the public cling to this image and this ideal that they've got to have their own constabulary."

"I believe all the public want is that when they call the police they get an officer promptly, who is professionally trained and able to deal with the problem they've called them to."

Mr Smith acknowledged there was no government appetite to reduce the number of forces.

Home Secretary Theresa May said if forces approached her with a "coherent and comprehensive" plan for mass mergers she would consider it.

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## Cost of living in Oxfordshire hits county's wards

THE high cost of living in Oxfordshire is leaving health bosses struggling to fully staff mental health and community hospital wards.

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust has failed to fully staff seven of its mental health and community hospital wards to the expected level during the past 22 months. The Wenric, Kingfisher, Opal, Ruby, Witney Wenric, Wintle and Vaughan Thomas wards have all had six months or more where they have failed to fully staff 75 per cent of shifts to the expected levels during the last year. The Wenric Ward – a secure forensic mental health ward at Littlemore Health Centre – has failed to fully staff 75 per cent of shifts a month between April 2014 and January this year.

The Kingfisher ward, also at the health centre in Sandford Road, has only been fully staffed for four months during the same period.

Trust bosses heard yesterday last Wednesday the staffing problems stem from high turnover and vacancy rates.

Nursing and clinical standards director Ros Alstead said the problems with the Wenric and Kingfisher wards were due to staff leaving last year.

She told the board that many of the posts at the Wenric ward had been filled and added: "Hopefully the position in Wenric is going to be improving. We are meanwhile staffing these with agency staff."

"We are using agency staff to bring these up to staffing levels."

Ms Alstead said a lot of the problem came from retaining staff because of the high cost of living in Oxfordshire.

She added: "There is the impact of being in a high cost of living area."

Oxford Health employs 6,100 staff across mental health care, community hospitals and home healthcare.

The trust's vacancy rate for January was 9.6 per cent, meaning it has about 585 staff posts to fill.

## Boost for housing

**OXON:** Councils could be given cash sooner for new homes built, under plans being consulted on by the government.

The New Homes Bonus would be paid four years after they are completed, instead of six, a report to Oxford City Council's audit and governance committee said.

The committee was meeting this week in Oxford Town Hall to look at the plans.

## More children securing first-choice secondary school places

MORE than nine out of 10 youngsters due to start secondary education in September have been offered a place at their first-preference school.

An extra 183 children applied for places this year but on Tuesday the number offered their first choice rose from 91 per cent to 92 per cent compared to 2015.

Of more than 6,000 primary

school pupils who applied, 98.5 per cent were offered a place at one of their three secondary school choices.

Oxfordshire County Council cabinet member for education Melinda Tilley said she was delighted.

She said: "There has been much in the national media about local authorities increasingly struggling

to offer families first-preference schools but that is not the story in Oxfordshire."

"We are working closely with all our secondary schools to plan ahead for additional school places and identify where there is the greatest need for more capacity."

"Where there is significant housing development, the council seeks to secure developer

contributions towards the capital cost of expanding secondary schools, or building new ones."

"That work will need to continue in the coming years to ensure sufficient local school places are available for every Oxfordshire child who needs one."

In situations where people have not been successful they can appeal against the decision.

# American actors ready to make dramatic entrance

Theatre company to receive words of wisdom from their visitors from Washington

ASPIRING actors and actresses in Banbury will be given words of wisdom from across the Pond when a group of American students visit later this month.

The Cherwell Theatre Company is hosting a visit from America's Western Washington University on March 21 for the group's annual improvisation show *The American Evening*.

It follows the group's first major production of the year, *Cinderella*, in January.

Helping to direct the theatre company's young actors will be Liam Nooney, who last appeared as Dame Bitsandbobbins in *Cinderella*.

He said: "This year we've been looking at improvisation as a way of devising theatre, giving the youth theatre a chance to create some of their own scenes."

"I am constantly impressed by how our young people absolutely throw themselves wholeheartedly into the work – especially those who have just joined us this term."

The production is split into two parts, where one half has been rehearsed in Banbury and the other in the US.

On the night itself the two sets of actors come together to perform for the first time.

Alongside the scripted material, members have also been developing their improvisation and comedy skills.

Cherwell Theatre Company artistic director Tristan Pate said: "The evening will showcase an assortment of improvised sketch comedy with CTC's friends from across the



Cherwell Theatre Company will present *The American Evening* at Banbury College on March 21

Pond. The company's talented youth theatre will share the fruits of their training this spring in an unforgettable evening of comedy, also featuring short plays by the American acting company.

"It's another great example of the way CTC integrates young people with those of greater experience in this field and our students absolute-

ly thrive on it.

"If you enjoyed *Cinderella*, get ready to see our talented young members take on an altogether different challenge, with hilarious results guaranteed."

For the first time this year, the two groups will also take their show to the USAF contingent at RAF Croughton, to help entertain the

American servicemen and women stationed there.

The performance takes place at 7pm at the Broughton Road college's theatre.

A collection will also be made for Sophie's Silver Lining Fund, which helps to support aspiring actors.

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## Cash boost enables youth charity to set up more clubs

A HALF a million pound cash injection will allow a youth charity to set up six new clubs in rural areas in the county.

Oxfordshire Youth has received £493,381 to expand its project providing services for young people and their families from disadvantaged communities.

The locations of the new clubs have yet to be decided.

Andrea Tiganescu, who will be running the scheme, said: "We feel honoured to have this opportunity to provide our members with the ongoing support they deserve."

"We hope this work will help youngsters across the county

who rely on their youth clubs for support and guidance."

The funding from the Big Lottery Fund covers the costs of Oxfordshire Youth's Sustainable Communities Project, where the charity will work with 19 other clubs to help them be more sustainable.

There will be extensive training for volunteers working with young people on issues like substance misuse and child sexual exploitation.

An additional £50,000 grant from the Future-Building Fund will allow the charity to act as an umbrella body for Oxfordshire's voluntary youth and children's organisations.



Smiling saff from Oxfordshire Youth



## Asylum-seeking youngsters rise

THE number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Oxfordshire doubled in a year.

Between March 2014 and March 2015 the number who were looked after by Oxfordshire County Council rose from 21 to 42, a report told senior councillors on the cabinet last week.

As of November 2015, there were 62 being cared for by the local authority.

The cabinet report warned "new arrivals are entering faster than established [unaccompanied asylum-seeking children] are discharged".

It added: "Very few get refugee status, and without this it is impossible to move them out of the pathway as they cannot work or access benefits and social housing, and we continue to have a duty to house and support them."

"As they turn 18 and many of their claims for asylum are refused, this cohort of young people become particularly vulnerable to exploitation, and also under pressure to exploit others."

"The Home Office continues to deport very few former UASCs. This means they are left with no recourse to public funds and no legal right to work."

"Those whom we continue to support are believed to be under pressure to support and help these members of their communities, which can lead to them letting people stay in their accommodation, and sharing their incomes with them."

Delays in processing asylum claims by the Home Office "exacerbate this problem", the report added.

In eight months the county council said it supported 32 new arrivals, half under 16.

## Former MP is named as one of three new Deputy Lieutenants for the county

FORMER Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry is one of three new Deputy Lieutenants who have been appointed for Oxfordshire.

The county's current Lord Lieutenant, Tim Stevenson, has also appointed the former national director of Carillion Healthcare, Neil Sutherland OBE, and Experience Oxfordshire board member Richard Venables.

The Lord Lieutenant is regarded as an important non-political representative of the county, helping to encourage and promote the good of the community through the voluntary and civic life of the county.

It is an honorary appointment. Lord Lieutenants and their Deputy Lieutenants are among the oldest public offices in England.

Duties include formally receiving the Queen, members of the Royal Family or heads of state when they visit Oxfordshire, and acting on behalf of the Queen in presenting awards and honours.

Other duties include maintaining links with the armed forces and emergency services, and supporting the civic life of the county, working with councils and agencies, schools, charities and the voluntary sector.



Former MP Sir Tony Baldry, pictured at Banbury Cross

# Cut in cash for children

Charity predicts budget for help groups will have seen a 69% decrease by 2020

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FUNDING for children's centres, teen pregnancy help, short breaks for disabled children and other support for young people in Oxfordshire is predicted to drop to £9.5 million by 2020.

National charity Action for Children has predicted the decrease,

which would represent a 69 per cent decline from the £30.7 million given by government in the 2010/11 financial year.

The money, which is handed to local authorities by Westminster, is also used to fund services such as schemes to improve employability and skills.

Oxfordshire County Council has already said it will have to cut £6 million from its budget for children's centres.

Action for Children's director of children's services, Emma Horne, said that the cuts would be "devastating" for children.

She said: "Governments have hacked away at the budget for ear-

ly help, and we are set to see further reductions, which is simply short-sighted."

"Intervening when a crisis occurs instead of working at an early stage to prevent it from happening, has a devastating cost both in social and financial terms."

"The government has committed to improving children's life chances, in particular, giving the most disadvantaged children the start they need."

"This report raises questions about how this objective will be achieved and whether local authorities will have the capacity to invest in services for children, young people and parents."

The charity's report on the issue, which has been produced with the National Children's Bureau and The Children's Society, drew on planned spending figures from councils and analysis of central government funding.

National Children's Bureau chief executive Anna Feuchtwang said: "Before making further cuts we urge the government to consider the long-term decline in how we support these services and, in turn, the severe consequences it has for the children and families that rely on them."

The Department for Education did not respond to requests for comment.

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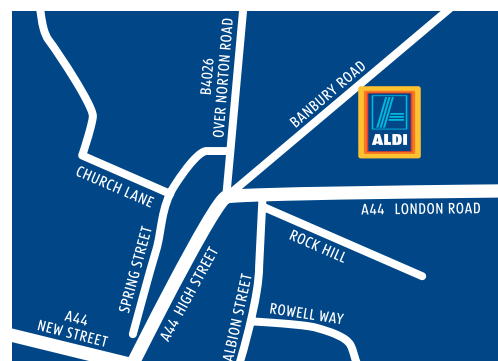


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# Service launched to aid child sex abuse victims

New project aims to work with affected children in the county and their families

A NEW specialist service to help children in Oxfordshire deal with sexual abuse has been launched.

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust has teamed up with the children's charity Safe! to set up the Horizon service.

The service will work with children aged from just a few months old to 18 who have been victims of sexual abuse or sexual harm and their families.

Clinical psychologist Dr Carmen Chan is leading the new project, which she said would help youngsters pick up the pieces of their lives again.

Dr Chan said the new service had been in the pipeline for a while because of the heightened awareness about child sexual abuse caused by Operation Bullfinch and other child sexual exploitation cases.

She added: "It's been an idea for a number of years.

"A lot of senior practitioners felt it is an important service to come about.

"With the increased awareness in recent years and high-profile cases the momentum really built



Clinical psychologist Dr Carmen Chan, who is leading the new Horizon service

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up to bring the team together."

The county's serious case review last year found more than 360 youngsters were suspected of having been abused or in danger of being groomed.

Dr Chan added: "We know that early trauma like sexual abuse can have long-standing effects.

"Trauma can affect children and teenagers in a lot of different ways, relationships with themselves, their parents, or how well they do at school.

"I think of it as building their personal resilience and confidence and getting over the trauma of the past."

Safe! is a charity supporting young people between the ages of eight and 25 in the Thames Valley

who have been hurt by a crime or bullying.

Children and teenagers can be referred to the new Horizon service, which was launched last Wednesday, in a variety of ways: through the police, social services, charities, their GP or hospital or mental health provider.

Dr Chan heads up a team that includes a psychiatrist, a social worker, and a nurse.

## Bake sale to boost kitty for cat charity

**N OXON:** Coffee and cakes will be on the menu at an upcoming charity day at Tackley Village Hall, in aid of abandoned cats in the Banbury area.

Stalls will include handmade creations from jewellery to bric-a-brac, and there will also be children's games on Saturday.

The event will run from 2pm to 4pm at the hall in Medcroft Road, and money will go towards Cherwell Cats Protection covering Bicester, Brackley and Banbury.

## Chocolate recalled

**OXON:** Mars is recalling a range of chocolates in the UK after a piece of plastic was found in one of its products.

The items include certain packs of Celebrations, Mars Funsize, Milky Way Funsize and Snickers Miniatures manufactured in the Netherlands.

The company said it was taking the "precautionary step" following an "isolated incident" in Germany.

Have you, or has your shop, been affected by this?

Email [kdavey@nqo.com](mailto:kdavey@nqo.com) to share your story.

## Lots of cafés for sale

**OXON:** Anyone wanting to buy a café, pub or restaurant in Banbury should have plenty of choice.

Analysis by Daltons Business found that the number of cafes for sale in the county jumped 27 per cent during the past year, but just 13 per cent more wanted to buy.

The number of restaurants on the market was up 10 per cent, compared to demand that rose six per cent.

Eight per cent more pubs were for sale, but there were just four per cent more buyers.

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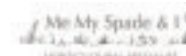
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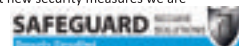
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# Villagers hopeful after lorry report

Residents have campaigned against trucks passing their homes to build rail link

Kieran Davey  
kdavey@nqo.com

THOUSANDS of heavy goods vehicles may not have to disturb the peaceful tranquility of North Oxfordshire villages after a new report on the HS2 project was released.

Residents in Wardington have campaigned for months against plans for lorries to drive past their homes as part of the building of the new high speed rail link.

The A361 passes through the village, which could carry vehicles travelling up from the M40 near Banbury.

But following a meeting of the HS2 select committee on January 18, MPs have said efforts should be made to cut down on the number of lorry trips.

The report said project leaders HS2 Ltd should look to reduce the volume of excavated earth needed at Lower Bodington.

Politicians also proposed that an alternative 'conveyor' route could be created along the A43.

Parish council vice-chairman Nigel Bankes, who founded a HS2 campaign group in the village, said that he was pleased that the report on the situation had been released.

He added: "We are very encouraged by the report but still feel there should be more done to move the spoil down the A43 road nearer to the train line."

"Although the plan would reduce the number of lorries going through the village, it is still an unsuitable route and there are much better working hours available too."

"It's good that they have realised how impractical the scheme is and that there is further work to be done."

"We were very impressed though by the attention to detail from the committee members and their knowledge of the scheme."

Banbury MP Victoria Prentis has supported the villagers' campaign, and also spoke directly to the committee.

Mrs Prentis said the report represented 'positive steps' for



Wardington residents are concerned about the impact additional heavy traffic would have on their picturesque village

the future of the project.

She added: "I am very pleased that the select committee has listened to those concerns."

"What is crucial now is to ensure these are fully actioned by HS2 Ltd."

"I will carefully monitor the progress of the company's plans, and will do my best to ensure that the committee's report is adhered to."

At peak times more than a thousand HGV trips could be made through the village every day.

Under the current plans vehicles would be able to use the route between 8am and 6pm on weekdays and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays.

The report is also encouraging the company to work with people in Mixbury.

This is to help reduce the risk



Victoria Prentis says the report represents 'positive steps'

of horses being startled by passing vehicles.

The Government is hoping to open the London to Birmingham line by 2026.

## Astounding Broccoli Boy among top reads for children in book awards

*YOU Can't Take an Elephant on the Bus*, *The Astounding Broccoli Boy* and *The Lie Tree* are among the shortlisted titles for this year's Oxfordshire Book Awards.

Hundreds of Oxfordshire schoolchildren voted for their favourite book, and their nominations have been whittled down to a final 13 titles by local and national authors.

The awards are divided into three categories – Secondary, Primary Novel and Picturebook.

Shortlisted in the Secondary category are *Mind Games* by Teri Terry; *Big Game* by Dan Smith; *The Art of Being Normal* by Lisa Williamson; *The Door That Led to Where* by Sally Gardner; *The Lie Tree* by Frances Hardinge and *In Darkling Wood* by Emma Carroll.

With some slightly more colourful titles the Primary Novel shortlist is made up of *The Accidental Prime Minister* by Tom McLaughlin; *Dragons at Crumbling Castle* by Terry Pratchett;

*The Astounding Broccoli Boy* by Frank Cottrell Boyce and *Demolition Dad* by Phill Earle.

The three shortlisted stories in the Picturebook category are: *You Can't Take an Elephant on the Bus* by Patricia Cleveland and David Tazzyman; *Please Mr Panda* by Steve Antony and *Once Upon an Alphabet* by Oliver Jeffers.

This year's winners will be announced on April 22. They will receive their awards at a ceremony in Oxford in November.

## Developers pay for projects plan

OPINIONS are being sought on proposals to force developers in North Oxfordshire to pay extra money to help fund new schools, parks and community centres.

At present anyone wanting to build new projects including roads and leisure facilities must pay an extra contribution to councils to fund new community facilities.

But new government

legislation means there is a limit to the amount of money councils can claim – known as Section 106 payments.

To address the shortfall, Cherwell District Council has launched a six-week public consultation on whether to bring in a new community infrastructure levy for developers.

Council lead member for planning, Michael

Gibbard, said: "We are still in the very early stages of investigating the possibility of introducing the levy but before we advance too far, we want to engage with stakeholders, developers and the public to gauge their opinions."

The consultation will take place until March 25. People can view the plans at public libraries across the district.

## Hundreds pack into first jobs fair

NEARLY 200 jobseekers hunted for the latest vacancies at Banbury's first job fair of the year.

Employers and agencies, including from retail and service industries, filled the town hall last week.

Cherwell District Council's lead member for estates and economy, Norman Bolster, said: "Our job fairs have

always proved popular with both companies and potential recruits.

"Judging by the numbers who came along, that trend will continue."

"The job fairs are always great opportunity for businesses to advertise vacancies to their target market while for individuals it is a chance to meet employers in advance of a possible

interview in a relaxed and informal setting."

The job fairs are not just for the unemployed, but also those looking to return to work after a break or who want a career change.

The next fair will be in Bicester from 10am-2pm on Wednesday, March 30. To book a stand call 01295 221863 or email info@banburyjobclub.com

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# MP backs bid for reform of council and its duties

Shake-up would see the current authority broken into four 'unitary' powers

**Matt Oliver**  
moliver@nqo.com

A BID to scrap Oxfordshire County Council has won the backing of Banbury MP Victoria Prentis.

In what would be the biggest shake-up of local government since 1974, the authority would be dismantled and its duties handed to other organisations.

These would include four new 'unitary' councils – three made from six existing district councils and one from Oxford City Council. Cherwell (South Northants) would be a new unitary authority, replacing Cherwell and South Northamptonshire councils.

At the moment the county council employs about 4,700 people and is responsible for education, social services, the fire service, libraries, most roads and transport planning, trading standards and waste and recycling sites.

But these would be taken over by the new unitary councils and social care handed to the National Health Service.

A combined authority of the new councils would take on responsibility for transport and major roads.

The change was proposed by the district councils and city council, as part of moves to win a devolution deal for Oxfordshire. It would see the government hand local politicians power over billions of pounds to spend on roads, schools, colleges and public transport.

The proposals were given a significant boost by Mrs Prentis, and the county's other MPs – David Cameron, Nicola Blackwood, Andrew Smith, Ed Vaizey and John Howell. In a joint statement they said: "This is a very interesting proposal and one that all of us feel has a lot of merit."

The change would be the biggest shake-up of local government in Oxfordshire since the Local Government Act 1974 created the current system. It is thought it would take about two years.

As well as Cherwell (South Northants), other unitary authorities would be Southern Oxfordshire, replacing Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire district councils; Oxford City, replacing Oxford City Council; and West Oxfordshire (Cotswold), replacing West Oxfordshire and Cotswold district councils.

Oxfordshire Clinical Commis-



Oxfordshire County Council leader Ian Hudspeth, left, and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group chairman Dr Joe McManners

sioning Group, the county's main NHS body, and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have also backed the plans.

Oxfordshire CCG chairman Dr Joe McManners said: "We support the ambition of the councils to bring health and social care closer together as this will improve outcomes for patients."

As part of negotiations over the possible devolution deal, ministers told council chiefs they would need to accept either an elected mayor for Oxfordshire, or to reorganise local government to make it simpler.

The district councils rejected a mayor and claimed it would cre-



ate more bureaucracy.

The county council last week proposed a single council for all of Oxfordshire, but this was also criticised by the districts.

Ian Hudspeth, county council leader, said: "I welcome this debate, because it will allow us to determine what is best for people in Oxfordshire."

"But what the districts are proposing would probably involve four chief executives and some 200 councillors. Is that the most efficient option? The key aim must be to reduce bureaucracy."

The district councils said they would hold a public consultation on their proposals in the summer.

## Thanks a million for charity funds

THANKS a million – that's the heartfelt message from Macmillan in Oxfordshire after donations topped seven figures.

Area fundraising manager Jan Harris thanked residents for raising £1,020,212 last year, which will help 24,700 people living with cancer.

She said: "I just want to say a personal thank you to everyone who hosted or attended coffee mornings, volunteered their time, took part in challenge events, braved the shave, went sober for October, put a pound in a collection box, or held their own events to raise money for Macmillan."

For the next three years the charity has donated £225,250 to fund a support worker and a nurse to join the neuro oncology team at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

Their role will be to help coordinate care and support to patients with brain tumours.

The team was initially set up in 2003, with Macmillan funding it for three years.

Georgina O'Brien, advanced nurse practitioner at the John Radcliffe Hospital, said: "These patients have complex needs."

"Brain tumours, including initial symptoms, can have devastating consequences for patients in many ways, including the ability to make decisions, communicate and carry out everyday tasks."

"This also impacts on their family, who also need our help."

"This additional funding from Macmillan gives us more capacity to support patients and families and deal with their complex needs."

For more information contact Jan at jaharris@macmillan.org.uk.

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# Now's the moment of Truth

**TRUTH (15, 125 mins) Drama.** Cate Blanchett, Robert Redford, Topher Grace, Dennis Quaid, Elisabeth Moss, Bruce Greenwood, Stacy Keach, Dermot Mulroney, Rachael Blake. Director: James Vanderbilt. IN THE same week that the Academy Awards bestowed Best Picture upon *Spotlight*, a real-life drama about the power of investigative journalism to expose corruption, *Truth* opens a different chapter on the media and its practices.

Writer-director James Vanderbilt's handsome picture recreates the political firestorm that erupted when CBS News's esteemed programme *60 Minutes* publicly called into question the military record of US president George W Bush.

Key pieces of paperwork, used by *60 Minutes* as links in a chain of evidence, were subsequently discredited and a key witness confessed he had lied about their providence.

Heads rolled at CBS including producer Mary Mapes, who recalled her version of events in the memoir *Truth And Duty*, and president George W Bush was inaugurated for a second term at the White House.

In 2004, Mary Mapes (Cate Blanchett), producer of *60 Minutes*, gathers together a crack team including journalism professor Lucy Scott (Elisabeth Moss) and researcher Mike Smith (Topher Grace) to dissect an explosive story.

Lieutenant colonel Roger Charles (Dennis Quaid) has acquired George W Bush's Texas Air National Guard file and it's curiously thin.

The journalists dig deeper and make contact with lieutenant colonel Bill Burkett (Stacy Keach), who claims to have some of the missing documents.

Anchorman Dan Rather (Robert Redford) headlines one of the most explosive editions of *60 Minutes* on September 8, 2004, less than two months

before the presidential elections.

Triumph turns to incredulity when bloggers pick holes in the story, forcing Andrew Heyward (Bruce Greenwood), president of CBS News, to call into question the journalistic integrity of Mary and her team.

*Truth* is a fascinating, if simplistic, recreation of a behind-the-scenes battle that ended the careers of award-winning journalists.

Blanchett and Redford deliver compelling performances as the producer and news anchor, whose reputations are stained.

They elevate Vanderbilt's script and electrify their on-screen partnership, even when the film's pacing sags.

**HAIL, CAESAR! (12A, 106 mins) A romantic comedy** with Josh Brolin, George Clooney, Alden Ehrenreich, Ralph Fiennes, Jonah Hill, Scarlett Johansson, Frances McDormand, Tilda Swinton, Channing Tatum. Directors: Joel and Ethan Coen

WHEN the mighty fall, they fall hard. Joel and Ethan Coen, who each have four Academy Awards and were nominees this year for their script for *Bridge Of Spies*, descend with a sickening thud.

*Hail, Caesar!*, their screwball valentine to the golden age of 1950s Hollywood when studios nurtured, protected and controlled big stars, is a deeply disappointing exercise in period style over substance, wit and characterisation.

There are a couple of stand-out musical sequences that quicken the pulse and remind us of the brothers' genius.

These crescendos are spliced into the film's trailer, which runs to a trim two-and-a-half minutes, and is infinitely more enjoyable than the bloated 106-minute misfire.

Eddie Mannix (Josh Brolin) masterminds production at Capitol Pictures, keeping the tawdry secrets of his stars out of rival gossip columns penned



Robert Redford, Cate Blanchett and Bruce Greenwood in *Truth*

by twins Thora and Thessaly Thacker (Tilda Swinton).

He also has to massage egos on the studio's big budget epic, *Hail, Caesar!*, starring matinee idol Baird Whitlock (George Clooney).

When a Communist group calling itself The Future kidnaps Baird, Eddie races against time to pay the ransom and keep the abduction secret.

Meanwhile, he must also conceal a pregnancy and convince a revered director to cast a singing Western dreamboat in a romantic period drama.

*Hail, Caesar!* is depressingly light on laughs and the Coens' trademark eccentricities.

## Cake Bookworm

**Speak by Louisa Hall, paperback by Orbit, priced £8.99 (ebook £9.49).**

In *Speak*, Louisa Hall entwines multiple viewpoints in a constantly shifting narrative about what makes us truly human. Spanning a pilgrim girl's diary from 1663, to the 2040 prison confession of a computer programmer who invented a doll so realistic that the children who played with it forgot to socialise, and taking in the letters of Alan Turing and the transcripts of a quarantined girl conversing with a robot, it is a complex, wide-ranging novel. Posing questions, never judging, it holds a mirror up to our increasingly digital lives, and explores whether artificial intelligence will divorce us from our humanity or whether it has a redemptive power to return us to ourselves. In the voices of her many characters, in her dazzling array of symbols, and in exploring some of the most pertinent ideas of our

time, this is a unique, important and remarkable book.

**The Hollow Men by Rob McCarthy, hardback by Mulholland Books, priced £14.99 (ebook £9.99).**

If you are looking for a well-informed thriller with lots of intrigue and plot twists, or if you enjoy the medical dramas on TV, you won't be disappointed with Rob McCarthy's debut crime novel *The Hollow Men*. The main character is Dr Harry Kent, a London-based former Army medic, currently working as a hospital registrar and police surgeon. One morning, after a busy night, he is contacted by the police and asked to attend a hostage situation involving a 17-year-old. When things turn sour, Harry is forced to save the boy's life and protect him from further danger – danger that could be close to home and even closer to Harry's inner circle of fellow doctors.

**The Butcher's Hook by Janet Ellis, hardback by Two Roads, priced £14.99 (ebook £9.99).**

Ex-*Blue Peter* presenter Janet Ellis turns her experience in storytelling to Georgian London for her debut novel. Anne Jacob is the daughter of a wealthy family. Her mother is confined after having a second daughter and her father's dark moods are stronger after the premature death of his only son and heir. Anne has to grow up quickly, hastened by a series of unconventional lessons by Dr Edwards. When butcher's boy Fub brings a delivery of meat to the house, Anne feels something stir within her and, against her family's wishes, she sets out to create her own happiness. As she falls deeper for Fub, Anne is forced into the company of Simeon Onions, a man closer in age to her father and of certain means. Will Anne be able to find herself and follow her heart? This novel holds the reader in suspense.

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# Oxfordshire Listings

## Events

### THURSDAY

**Tokens of Love:** Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock. 10am. Free. 01993 811456.

**Andy Warhol: Works from the Hall Collection:** Ashmolean, Oxford. 10am. £10/£9. 01865 278000.

**Collector's Prints 2016:** Bohun Gallery, Henley. 10am. 01491 76228.

**Underneath the Westgate Family Trail:** Museum of Oxford. 10am. Free. 01865 252334.

**Scenes of Last Tokyo:** *Japanese Creative Prints from 1945:* Ashmolean, Oxford. 10am. Free.

**Metamorphosis by The Stuff Collective:** Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock. 10am. Free.

**The Magic of the Trees:** Art Jericho, Oxford. Sculpture by Helen Slater, paintings by Rose-Marie Caldecott, photographs by Ben Ramos & Jenny Blyth. 12pm. Free. 01865 604070.

**Victorian Oxford Gallery Trail:** Museum of Oxford. 10am. Free. 01865 252334.

**Three Dimensions:** Modern Artists, Whitchurch. 10.30am. Free. 0118 9845893.

**Dance and the Woman by Lin Kerr:** Freeborn Gallery, Didcot Girls' School. 9.30am. Free. 07833 552 201.

**Sensing Culture:** A Tour for Blind & Partially Sighted Visitors: Pitt Rivers. 11am. Free, book. 01865 270927.

**Crowd To Cloister:** Merlin Porter's Paintings Celebrating Oxford's Music & Architecture: The Jam Factory, Oxford. Also: Crack Me Up, and Winding Paths. 9am. Free. 01865 246413.

**Neil Marchant: Nebula XXI:** Cornerstone, Didcot. 10am. Free.

**Kennington Portrait Group:** Museum of Oxford. 10am. Free.

**Mixed Years Exhibition, St Edward's School:** North Wall, Oxford. 10am. Free. 01865 319450.

**Pure Land: Images of Immortals in Chinese Art:** Ashmolean. 10am. Free.

**300 years of Cartoons!** And **'1066: William Comes to Wallingford':** Wallingford Museum. 2pm. £5.

**Ramblers walk:** Lambert Arms, Aston Rowant. Hilly 6½-mile walk via Aston Rowant Nature Reserve and Cowleaze Wood with a pub stop at end. 10am. 01844 213608.

**Film: Our Hospitality,** 65mins, USA, 1923, Cert U. St Nicolas Church, Abingdon. Buster Keaton. 7.30pm. £6. 01235 521976.

**Gunge for Grown Ups:** Abingdon School. Science fun for adults. 7.30pm. £10/£6.

**Talk:** Memorial Hall, Uffington. 'Maintenance and Manicure of the Green, Green Grass of Home'. By Jon Mason. 7.30pm. Visitors £2.50. 01367 820251.

**FRIDAY**

**Over 60s' lunch club:** Florence Park Community Centre, Oxford. 12pm. Free. 07864 028 591.

**Abingdon Farmers' Market:** Market Place, Abingdon. 8.30am. 01235 227266.

**Oxford International Women's Festival:** Various venues in Oxfordshire. Theme: Women, Austerity, Creativity, Challenge & Transgression. From 9am.

**Trio:** Old Fire Station, Oxford. G K Field, Ellen Love, Alexandra Pullen. 11am. Free. 11am-6pm.

**Talk:** Museum of Natural History. Therapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy; time for optimism. Prof Dame Kay Davies. 5pm. Free.

**SATURDAY**

**Watlington Art Exhibition:** Watlington Primary School. 10am-5pm. £1. 01491 612474.

**New Arrivals 2:** Oxford Printmakers. Exhibition of work. 11am. Free.

**Tokens of Love:** Oxfordshire Museum. See Thursday.

**Andy Warhol and Scenes of Last Tokyo:** Ashmolean. See Thursday.

**Collector's Prints 2016:** Bohun Gallery. See Thursday.

**Underneath the Westgate Family Trail:** Museum of Oxford. See Thursday.

**Kennington Portrait Group:** Museum of Oxford. See Thursday.

**Metamorphosis:** Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock. See Thursday.

**The Magic of the Trees:** Art Jericho. See Thursday.

**Victorian Oxford Gallery Trail:** Museum of Oxford. See Thursday.

**Neil Marchant: Nebula XXI:** Cornerstone, Didcot. 10am. Free. 01235 515144.

**Trio:** OFS, Oxford. See Friday.

**Day Out with Thomas:** Didcot Railway Centre. Meet Thomas and his friends Duck and Diesel and the Fat Controller. 9.30am. £14 adult, £11 child. 01235 817200.

**Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers:** SP663177, The Green, Ludgershall. Leisurely 8-mile circular walk via Tetchwick, disused railway line, Wotton Underwood. Picnic lunch. Pub stop at end. Assistance dogs only. 10am. 07751 196132.

**Ramblers walk:** Woodstock, Hensington Road car park, Woodstock. 10-mile walk to Enslow, Oxford Canal and Tackley with pub/picnic stop. 10am. 01865 874300.

**Westgate Pop-Up Museum:** Museum of Oxford. See amazing finds from the Westgate site. 10am. Free. 01865 252334.

**Pruning workshop:** Barracks Lane Community Garden, Oxford. With expert Chris Lanczak from Waterperry Gardens. £15. To book email barrackslanegarden@yahoo.co.uk 10am-noon.

**Spring exhibition:** Junction Art Gallery, Woodstock. Paintings by Alison McWhirter and Laura Rich, ceramics by Yo Thom and Stephen Murfitt and glass by Jo Newman. 10am. Free. 01993 358707.

**Bitten Street:** Oxford Castle. Monthly street food market. 11am Free entry.

**A Day of Women & Bicycles:** The Story Museum, Oxford. 11am. £8. 07551 711746

**Pieces of Eight:** WOA Gallery, Bampton. Lucy Ash. 11.30am. Free. 01993 850137.

**A Garden Enclosed:** The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock. Sacred and secular love in medieval gardens by Michael Brown. 2.30pm. £7. 01993 811456.

**SUNDAY**

**Tokens of Love:** Oxfordshire Museum. See Thursday.

**Andy Warhol:** Ashmolean. See Thursday.

**Scenes of Last Tokyo:** Ashmolean. See Thursday.

**Metamorphosis:** Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock. See Thursday.

**The Magic of the Trees:** Art Jericho. See Thursday.

**Neil Marchant: Nebula XXI:** Cornerstone, Didcot. See Thursday.

**Pure Land: Images of Immortals in Chinese Art:** Ashmolean, Oxford. See Thursday.

**Oxford International Women's Festival:** Various venues in Oxfordshire. See Friday.

**Spring Exhibition:** Junction Art Gallery, Woodstock. See Saturday.

**Pieces of Eight:** WOA Gallery, Bampton. See Saturday.

**Day Out with Thomas:** Didcot Railway Centre. See Saturday. 9.30am.

**Mother's Day Edible Bouquets:** Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham.

**To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at [thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events](http://thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events)**

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

10am. £4 per child. 01865 407792.

**Flea Market and Collectors Fair:** Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. 10am. Buyers 50p. 01491 833938.

**National Garden Scheme:** Monks Head, Bletchingdon. Plantaholics' garden. 2pm. £3. 01869 350155.

**MONDAY**

**Oxford International Women's Festival:** See Friday.

**Westgate Pop-Up Museum:** Museum of Oxford. See Saturday.

**The Power of the Pill:** North Wall, Oxford. Discussion chaired by Vivienne Parry. £5-£8. 7.30pm.

**TUESDAY**

**Tea and Creativity Social Club:** Corpus Christi Church Hall, Headington. 2pm. £5/£4.

**Flow – Artwork by Amarita Vargas:** Jam Factory, Oxford. 9am. Free.

**Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers:** SP462193, lay-by next to Sturdy's Castle on A4260, Tackley. A leisurely 3.7-mile circular walk via Wootton led by Mary Gough. 10am. 07939 826412.

**Ramblers' walk:** Oxfordshire Golf Club, Thame. Leisurely 4-mile walk around Rycote Park. 10am. 01844 208517.

**Life-writing lunch talk:** Karen Arrandale: 'Edward J Dent – A Serpentine Life': Wolfson College, Oxford. 1pm.

**Writing War, Writing Lives – panel discussion on biography and the First World War:** Wolfson College, Oxford. Free. 5.30pm.

**English Museums and Change:** Museum of Oxford. Variety of speakers. £5. 5.30pm

**Recycling the Astrolabe:** Museum of the History of Science, Oxford. Dr Stephen Johnstone (MHS) and Dr Koenraad van Cleempool. 7pm. Free.

**Natural History Talk:** Community Centre, Woodstock. AGM followed by Lawrence Bee, 'Ecology of the Oak'. Woodstock Natural History Society. Visitors £2. 7.30pm. 01993 812004.

**Knitting (& Crochet!) Together:** Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, Oxford. 10am. Free. 01865 243216.

**WEDNESDAY**

**Walk (Fieldpaths):** St Mary the Virgin Church, Buckland. SU342982 10 miles. A walk to Littleworth, Stanford in the Vale and Buckland Warren. Bring refreshments. Assistance dogs only. 10am. 01367 242019.

**Cotswold Decorative & Fine Arts Society Talk:** Bradwell Hall, Burford. 'Life and Times of the Sundial: Our most enduring Timekeeper' by Kevin Karney. 10.15am. Non-members £8.

**Cheney Over 50s Club:** Cheney School, Headington. Saxons – a talk by Martin Lay. £2.50. 2.30pm.

**Astronomy for All lecture by Dr John Stott, 'Clusters of galaxies':** Green Templeton College, Oxford. 6pm. Free. 01865 274770.

**Oxfordshire Railway Society:** Seacourt Day Centre, Botley. 'The Banbury & Cheltenham Direct Line' – a talk by Stanley Jenkins. Visitors £3. 7.30pm.

**Harwell WI:** Harwell Village Hall. AGM, then aromatherapy hand massage demonstration. 7.30pm.

**The history of cartoons in British**

**arts and politics:** St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Talk by Steve Head to TWHAS. Visitors £4. 8pm. 01491 836096.

**Music**

**THURSDAY**

**Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, Oxford:** Lunchtime Concert. Free. 12.45pm. 01865 243216.

**St John the Evangelist, Oxford:** Public Passions with Sir Christopher Ball. £30/25/15. 7.0pm. 07775 904 626.

**St Peter's College, Oxford:** Benjamin Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*. (Contains assault, suicide, violence). £15/£8. 7.30pm.

**Old Fire Station, Oxford:** John Otway & Wild Willy Barrett – The Final Straw. £15. 8pm. 01865 305305.

**FRIDAY**

**St Peter's College, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford:** *The Rape of Lucretia*. See Thursday.

**Holywell Music Room, Oxford:** Composition Workshop with the Faculty of Music. Free. 10am. 01865 591276.

**Wadham College, Oxford:** 'Song as Performance'. Afternoon of talks. Free. 2pm. 01865 591 276.

**Holywell Music Room, Oxford:** Spring Weekend of Song: Susan Gritton (soprano) & Eugene Asti (piano). £25. 8pm. 01865 591276.

**The White House, Oxford:** Duck Baker and Helen Roche. £6. 7.30pm. 01865 768128.

**The Angel, Witney:** Nikki Petherick. Free. 9pm. 01993703238.

**Berinsfield SC:** Jason Pegg. 9pm. 07770 899 859.

**SATURDAY**

**The Queen's College, Oxford:** Eglesfield Musical Society Recital. Pénle Ensemble Woodwind Quintet. 1.30pm. 01865 279120.

**St Peter's College, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford:** *The Rape of Lucretia*. See Thursday.

**Holywell Music Room, Oxford:** Spring Weekend of of Song: Auditions for the Oxford Lieder Young Artist Platform. £5 session/ £10 day 11.15am. 01865 591276.

**St John the Evangelist Church, Oxford:** *Alice in Wonderland*. Oxford Girls' Choir. £8-£15. 2.30pm and 7pm.

**All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay:** Syrinx Ensemble concert. £9. 4pm. 07788 715 873.

**Merton College Chapel, Oxford:** Thomas Trotter Organ Recital. £12 (£5 students). 4pm.

**Westcott SSC:** Amanda Russell. £7/£5. 7.30pm. 01296 651855.

**St. Denys' Church, Stanford in the Vale:** *Spring Breezes*. The Loxley Quintet. £12. 7.30pm. 01367 718420.

**Tingewick Hall, John Radcliffe Hospital:** John Radcliffe Orchestra's 100th performance concert. £10/£8. 7.45pm. suederham26@hotmail.com

**Holywell Music Room, Oxford:** Spring Weekend of Song: Kitty Whately (Mezzo-Soprano) & Sholto Kynoch (Pianist). £25. 8pm. 01865 591276.

**Swan Inn, Ascott-under-Wychwood:** Fifteen String Trio. £8/£6 adv. 8pm.

**Univ Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford:** Hertford Bruckner Orchestra

concert. £7.50/£5. 8pm. 01865 245646.

**Banbury Trades & Labour Club:** Banbury Soul Club. £5. 8pm.

**Northway SC, Headington:** The Summits. 9pm. 07957 322 489.

**Cricketers Cowley:** Darren Hunt. Free. 9pm. 01865 718459.

**SUNDAY**

**Shulman Auditorium, The Queen's College, Oxford:** Spring Weekend of Song: Masterclass by Susan Gritton (Soprano) & Eugene Asti (Pianist). Free. 12.30pm. 01865 591276.

**St Nicolas Church, Abingdon:** Abbey Chamber Concert. Chalemie Baroque. £10/£9. 3pm. 07775 904 626.

**Wheatsheaf, Oxford:** Darren & The Tramp. 3.30pm-8.30pm. Free.

**Holywell Music Room, Oxford:** Spring Weekend of Song: Josep-Ramon Olivé (Baritone) & Ben-San Lau (Pianist). £10. 8pm. 01865 591276.

**Prince of Wales, Shippon:** Thameside Rhythm Kings jazz. 8pm. 01235 538546.

**MONDAY**

**Harris Manchester College, Oxford:** *The Crucifixion*. Harris Manchester Chorale. 5.45pm. 01865 271006.

**TUESDAY**

**Cornerstone, Didcot:** Open Mic Night. 7.30pm. 01235 515144.

**WEDNESDAY**

**The Queen's College Chapel, Oxford:** Organ Recital. Timothy Parsons (Winchester Cathedral). 1.10pm. 01865 279125.

**St Giles Church, Oxford:** JS Bach – a musical journey. Talk by Andrew Patterson. £10/£8/£5. 6.30pm. 01865 510460.

**Old Fire Station, Oxford:** Hunter & The Bear. £12/10. 8.15pm. 01865 305305.

**Theatre**

**THURSDAY**

**Keble O'Reilly Theatre, Oxford:** *The Marriage of Kim K*. 7pm. £7-£10. 07913 988008.

**FRIDAY**

**Keble O'Reilly Theatre, Oxford:** *The Marriage of Kim K*. See Thursday.

**Cornerstone, Didcot:** *Hiraeth*. 7.30pm. £15/£13.50. 01235 515144.

**North Wall: Children and Animals.** 8pm. £12/£8. 01865 319450.

**SATURDAY**

**Cornerstone, Didcot:** Lady Connie and The Suffragettes. 7.30pm. £15/£13.50. 01235 515144.

**SUNDAY**

**Cornerstone, Didcot:** *Orion and the Dark* (children's theatre. Age: 3+). £8.50/£6.50. 01235 515144.

**MONDAY**

**The Wheatsheaf, Oxford:** The Oxford Imps. 8pm. £3.50.

**TUESDAY**

**Old Fire Station, Oxford:** Schlock! 08 March 2016, 7.30pm. 7.30pm. £10/£8. 01865 305305.

**WEDNESDAY**

**Kenton Theatre, Henley:** The Constant Wife. 7.30pm. £9-£12. 01491 575698.

**North Wall:** *Living With The Lights On*. 8pm. £14/£12. 01865 319450.

**Comedy**

**THURSDAY**

**Cornerstone, Didcot:** Comedy Club: 18+. Joe Lycett. Will Duggan, Pippa Evans. £12.50/£11. 01235 515144.

**FRIDAY**

**Glee Club, Oxford:** Richard Herring. 6.45pm. £10. 0871 472 0400.



CakeSport

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Ricky Johnson scored Banbury's second goal against Winchester

# In-form Puritans take over at top

Barcelos and Johnson fire Banbury to win

FELIPE Barcelos and Ricky Johnson scored as Banbury United beat leaders Winchester City to go top of the table. The Puritans are now a point clear in Evo-Stik Southern League Division 1 South & West, but have played up to four games more than some of their rivals. Banbury took the lead on 25 minutes when Barcelos slotted home after a quickly taken throw-in allowed Zac McEachran to catch the visitors off guard. And it was 2-0 on 42 minutes when Johnson scored

from close range after good work from Darius Browne. In the second half, Barcelos was denied by goalkeeper Brendan Norris when he went through one-on-one, before Callum White then shot straight at the keeper. The chances kept coming as Barcelos latched on to a Johnson ball to go through again, but this time, after rounding Norris, he was denied by a Danny King clearance. Browne then forced Nor-

ris into an other save and Leam Howards had an effort blocked on the line. Despite the long periods of Banbury pressure, the visitors scored on 79 minutes through Warren Bentley's header. And they could have equalised when Jamie Thoroughgood missed a glorious opportunity from five yards late on. However, Banbury held on to go top. Banbury Utd: Harding, White, Hopkins, Martin, Westbrook, Gunn, McEachran (Stanbridge 84), Nash, Johnson, Barcelos (Howards 67), Browne (Wise 84). Subs not used: Welch-Hayes, Jacob Blackstock. Attendance: 589.

LATEST TABLE

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Division 1 South & West

Banbury Utd	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
	31	19	9	3	76	28	66	
Cinderford Tn	27	20	5	2	53	15	65	
Swindon Smarine	30	20	5	5	59	28	65	
Winchester City	30	20	4	6	79	37	64	
Taunton Tn	28	17	7	4	54	23	58	
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North Leigh	31	18	3	10	64	32	57	
Shortwood Utd	30	17	4	9	62	45	55	
Evesham Utd	30	14	9	7	54	28	51	
Tiverton Tn	28	14	9	5	49	30	51	
Didcot Tn	32	14	6	12	64	48	48	
AFC Totton	31	13	4	14	62	57	43	
Yate Tn	33	11	9	13	42	43	42	
Mangotsfield Utd	31	9	9	13	45	51	36	
Bishops Cleeve	26	9	9	8	37	44	36	
Slimbridge	30	9	7	14	36	39	34	
Larkhall Athletic	29	9	7	13	44	49	34	
Marlow	31	9	5	17	44	60	32	
Wimborne Tn	32	8	5	19	52	68	29	
Bridgwater Tn	31	8	4	19	32	60	28	
Wantage Tn	32	6	3	23	33	77	21	
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Burnham	31	4	4	23	30	78	16	
Basiley	30	0	1	29	9	140	1	

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

Libra

Sep 23-Oct 22

You have been experiencing some really mixed emotions which have made it hard for you to know what to do. Take your time. Who said you have to rush? Allow yourself time this week to process your emotions. You can choose the right path if you do my friend. Gemini bring new work opportunity. Ring now so I can tell you what else your future holds.

0906 585 4360

0906 585 4366

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

Scorpio

Oct 23-Nov 21

Your ruling planet Venus is making you more emotional than usual. So much so in fact, that you may end up accusing your close ones of things they haven't done. Careful Taurus, you could end up forcing a loved one's hand if you're not careful. Listening, rather than talking can fill in the real facts you need to know. Ring now to how foreign shores beckon and mix with work opportunities.

0906 585 4361

0906 585 4367

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Sagittarius

Nov 22-Dec 21

I know you were confused and you lost your way, but this week you're finally back in the land of the living. A difficult air between you and a family member is improved by the involvement of a third party and life starts to feel as if it's back on track again. Text messages tell lies so be careful of what you believe. Ring now so we can make the most of your week ahead.

0906 585 4362

0906 585 4368

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Capricorn

Dec 22-Jan 19

Travel plans bring mix ups and last minute changes, so be ready to think on your feet and be flexible to other's needs. Your ruling planet the Moon brings out your confessional side at the weekend when you may end up telling secrets you've been keeping since last year. This can be a positive thing, as you'll soon discover. Ring now to find out what Venus is planning for you.

0906 585 4363

0906 585 4369

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Aquarius

Jan 20-Feb 18

You feel a strong need to get answers and you don't care who you have to insult to get them. This forceful attitude could earn you a few enemies this week though, so try a softer approach if you want to keep friendships intact. You may not realise it, but you are coming across in a rather harsh manner. Ring now to hear how romance and white lies seem to go hand in hand.

0906 585 4364

0906 585 4370

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Pisces

Feb 19-Mar 20

If you know something is not working in your life then this is the week you will be doing something about it. Children are prominent in your chart as you help someone younger than you to make a major decision with their life. Don't feel forced to confess all to friends who don't know as much as they are claiming. You're allowed a personal life. Ring now for support.

0906 585 4365

0906 585 4371

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## Family ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Deaths

#### HICKLING Enid

of Aston-le-Walls, passed away after a long illness on 24th February 2016. Enid will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service to take place at Banbury Crematorium on Thursday 10th March at 10:00am. For all enquiries please contact G. Seller & Co Ltd, 75 Upper Bond Street, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 1RH. Tel: 01455 637457 or online at [www.gseller.co.uk/obituaries](http://www.gseller.co.uk/obituaries)

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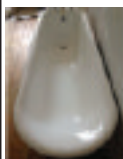
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**Assistant manager** position, full or part time : a good package is on offer for the right candidate. Experience and very good customer service skills are essential! Also, part - time **Kitchen Assistant** : Basic food and hygiene is a must, a goal understanding of basic food preparation is necessary... however full training will be given.

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#### Bathrooms

**JANSEN** Floor standing basin, Vitreous china, white, H840 x W500 x D480, still in original box £40. 01295 279880

#### Building & DIY

**QUANTITY** of Cotswold stones. 01865 554137

#### Computers & Laptops

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#### Childrens Corner

**MINI** micro scooter, blue, like new, used less than one year, new cost £59.99, asking price £39. 07794 643605

#### Furniture & Furnishings

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## In brief

■ **VOLKSWAGEN'S** current line-up of 1.4 and 1.6 engines will be replaced by a new set of 1.5-litre models. The new TSI and TDI engines will replace the existing engines in popular cars from Skoda, Volkswagen, SEAT and Audi. Volkswagen says these new engines are designed to meet the much more difficult emissions regulations set to begin in 2020. The engines are understood to be similar in size and shape to the existing ones, however the new models are likely to be lighter and more aerodynamic than the outgoing versions.

■ **RESIDENTS** near Six Nations rugby venues are earning extra income by renting out parking spaces. One man in Twickenham sells two spaces on his drive for £15 a day – much less than official car parks. YourParkingSpace.co.uk acts as an intermediary, making it easy for drivers to book. Managing director Harrison Woods said: "With parking at sports venues in such demand, homeowners could be earning significant amounts of extra income renting out their unused spaces."

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## The Jazz is music to anyone's ears

### Auto facts

**Model:** Honda Jazz i-VTEC EX Navi Manual  
**Price:** £17,105  
**Insurance group:** 13E  
**Fuel consumption (Combined):** 55.4mpg  
**Top speed:** 118mph  
**Length:** 399.5cm/157.3in  
**Width:** 198cm/78in  
**Luggage capacity:** 12.5 cu ft  
**Fuel tank capacity:** 8.8 gallons/40 litres  
**CO2 emissions:** 120g/km  
**Warranty:** Three years/90,000 miles

David Duffy  
 david.duffy@nqo.com

PEOPLE of a certain age value one quality in a car above all else – reliability. So it is little wonder that the Honda Jazz has proved such a hugely popular worldwide success.

Not that reliability is the only feature that this compact hatchback has going for it, for in the car-buying list of price, fuel consumption and practicality, the Jazz ticks all the boxes.

Now in its third generation, the new Jazz is built on a new, longer platform which gives more interior space and versatility. Add in a new engine, new transmissions, a lot more technology and a fresh design, and the Jazz success story is set to continue.

Unseen, but underpinning the comfortable ride and taut handling of the Jazz is a stiffer platform, with a bodysheet and lighter suspension tailored for Europe. New 'faster' electric power steering increases feedback at the wheel.

Also working away in the background is a so-called 'agile handling assist' system that applies a light braking force, imperceptible to the driver, to the inner wheels when cornering at speed, increasing the vehicle's responsiveness and stability.

A neat-handling and economical hatchback, it is the interior space's versatility that has won the Jazz so many friends.

The four-metre long Jazz has a centre-mounted fuel tank to



increase interior space, but it is Honda's Magic Seats system that gives a wide range of configurations for carrying cargo and passengers, and the seats can be set up in four different ways.

The cabin has a thoroughly upmarket feel, set off by a modern, crystal clear instrument panel with three dials, each encircled with a 'floating' ring of light. The backlight colour of the speedometer changes from white to green during driving.

Power comes from a 1.3-litre petrol engine that delivers 102 horsepower, linked to a positive, six-speed manual gearbox, with a newly-developed CVT transmission as an option.

Priced from about £13,500, all models come with air conditioning as standard, and mid-grade models are fitted with a seven-inch infotainment touchscreen and steering wheel-mounted audio controls.

The test model came with everything from a leather-trimmed steering wheel, keyless entry and push-button engine start/stop, to touchpanel controls for the automatic air conditioning.

Safety systems are top notch and include forward collision warning, traffic sign recognition system, speed limiter, lane departure warning and automatic high-beam.

The Jazz has sold more than five million worldwide since the first generation model was introduced 15 years ago and it is manufactured in seven countries.

Little wonder then that last month a survey carried out by the Organisation of Consumers and Users of more than 30,000 European drivers found that customers rated Honda as the most reliable brand, with the Jazz rated as the top car in its category.

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2005 54	ALFA ROMEO 156 JTS Veloce 2.0. Silver Metallic. Black leather interior. Very nice condition throughout. Local car. Alloys. Air con. PAS. Radio/CD. Remote central locking. Electric windows Etc. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. HPI clear.....	£2,195.00
2002 51	FORD MONDEO ZETEC 2.0 TDCi, 5 door hatchback, metallic blue, local car in very nice condition throughout, PAS, alloys, aircon, remote central locking, electric windows and doors and mirrors, radio/cd, very nice example of this popular large diesel car. Sold with a new MOT, a full service, and a new cambelt kit, HPI clear.....	£1,995.00
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## New survey of older drivers

### Pensioners agree on tougher testing

**MOST** older drivers are in favour of tighter rules on checking the health and suitability of over-70s to drive – even if those checks could take them off the road themselves – according to a new report by the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM).

And more than half demonstrate that they self-regulate to stay safe, by avoiding driving in challenging situations like busy traffic, after

dark, in rush hour or bad weather.

The IAM worked with Dr Carol Hawley and her team at Warwick Medical School to survey more than 2,600 drivers and former drivers on their opinions, habits and motoring history.

While mature drivers travel far fewer miles than other age groups, 84 per cent of them rated their driving ability as 'good to excellent' and only six per cent had ever

considered giving up driving.

Despite that, a very high proportion were for measures to increase safety on the roads. Almost 60 per cent said drivers should retake the test every five years from age 70, some 85 per cent said drivers should then pass an eyesight test every five years, and more than half said they should then have to have a medical examination.

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